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To: Chief Local Elected Officials  
Workforce Development Board Chairs  
Workforce Development Board Directors  
One-Stop Operators and Coordinators

From: Connie Colussy, Director *CColussy*  
Bureau of Workforce Programs

**Re: WIA Policy Update 02-09 - Sectarian Training Programs and the State List of Eligible Programs and Providers**

The attached policy addresses sectarian training programs and the State List of Eligible Programs and Providers. They are not eligible to be on the State List.

Please consider the policy a part of the "Criteria for Local Selection" in the Initial Eligibility Policy. Applications for sectarian training programs cannot be approved by local Workforce Development Boards. In addition, the Division of Workforce Solutions cannot approve and place sectarian training programs on the State List of Eligible Training Programs and Providers. The policy identifies WIA references that prohibit this.

If you have questions, please contact your local program liaison:

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### Sectarian Training Programs

Sectarian Training Programs are not eligible for listing on the Workforce Investment Act's State List of Eligible Training Programs and Providers. The reason is WIA Section 188 (a)(3) prohibits payments for religious training. Any federal funds spent in violation of Act would be subject to disallowance and must be paid back.

Sectarian or "faith based" organizations are eligible to be listed on the State List provided their training program is nonsectarian. The Workforce Programs Guide, Part 1 –Administration of Workforce Programs (II)(E)(9), establishes the guidelines for doing this. It says, "funds may not be used to attempt to support either religious or anti-religious activities. Grants that are issued to "faith based" organizations must document the nonsectarian nature of the activity."

Additional WIA References: Regulations 20CFR 667.266 (b)(1), Regulations 29 CFR 37.6(f).